The 14th Sunday After Pentecost
Labor Day Weekend
Sunday September 6, 2020
Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church!
We are living through challenging times. This Episcopal Diocese of California has suspended in-person church services for the time being. Like so many in our community, we’re learning to connect remotely. It’s hard to imagine closing the doors of our church. We’ve never experienced something like this in our lifetimes. It’s painful to close our church doors because one of our calls as Christians is to welcome and love every single person, just as Jesus did. But for the sake of public health and members of our community who are susceptible to this virus, we need to be creative.

Where is Stephen this time? He’s on the first ever Christ Church backpacking trip up in the Emigrant Wilderness outside of Pinecrest. The trip includes four families from Christ Church and one family from St. Stephen’s Sebastopol.

We are streaming our 10:15 Sunday service on Facebook at  https://www.facebook.com/CCAlameda  and at  www.christchurchalameda.org  (scroll down on the main page to see the Live Stream. You can also tune in on your Roku device or Apple TV. Search for the Boxcast app, then search for the Christ Church Alameda channel.

Sunday school, Adult Spiritual Formation and many other things we do on Sunday morning are suspended for the time being. A virtual coffee hour will take place after church via Zoom. For more information, contact  office@christchurchalameda.org.

Here are some tips for participating in the service:
• Please say all the parts in bold.
• There’s no excuse not to sing people, since there’s no one to make you feel self-conscious.
• Communion is the hard part, since we can’t actually share the bread and wine consecrated on our altar. You’re free to follow along from home and interpret the sacrament as your heart calls you to do. Sacraments are connections between a person and God, so this style of communion may work for some but not others. Once we’re through all of this, we’ll talk about our experiences.
• During the season of Pentecost our liturgy comes from the Book of Common Prayer, Rite II, Prayer C. So, if you have your own copy of the Prayerbook at home, you’re welcome to follow along that way, rather than printing out the bulletin. The liturgy begins on page 355. The communion setting starts on page 369."

All of this feels surreal. Ambiguity and anxiety are hard. We will stay connected by phone, the Internet, and sometimes in person. Together, we’ll get through this. Please continue praying across the world affected by this unfolding tragedy, and please keep yourself safe.

Christ Episcopal Church
www.christchurchalameda.org

Image:  Forgiveness  – Artist Unknown
The Word of God

Prelude

Sull'aria

W.A. Mozart

Eileen Meredith, Soprano & Ellen St Thomas, Mezzo-Soprano

Opening Hymn

Glorious things of thee are spoken, 522

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God; he whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode;

2. See! the streams of living waters, springing from eternity, love, well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.

3. Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and covering, showing that the Lord is near.

4. Blest inhabitants of Zion, washed in the Redeemer's blood! Whom their souls rely on, makes them kings and priests to God.
Presider

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.
Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

Creator God, you have made us not in one mold, but in many: deepen our unity in Christ that we may rejoice in our diversity. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Lector A reading from the Book of Exodus.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on
the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People Thanks be to God.

The Response Psalm 149:1-5

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre. For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.

The Second Lesson Romans 13:8-12

Lector A reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People Thanks be to God.
"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by your Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son She is worshiped and glorified. She has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

For all people in their daily life and work; For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
For this community, the nation, and the world; *For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the Alameda Education Foundation, Christ Church’s social justice cause for the month of September; *For all who hunger for food, justice or peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation; *For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; *For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For all who suffer from wildfires in California, hurricanes in the Southeast, and heatwaves across the West; *For those who suffer from natural disasters and climate change.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; *For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For all those who have died; **May they rest in your eternal light.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Marc our Bishop, Stephen & Will our Priests, Mary our Deacon, and for all ministers, lay and ordained; *For all who serve God in his Church.*

*For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.* *The People may add their own petitions, followed by silence.*

Hear us, O God; **For your mercy is great.**

**Presider**

God, by your Holy Spirit you make us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your love and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

**Presider** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Greet one another in the name of the Lord with comments and dorky emojis!*

**Announcements**

**Cause of the Month**

Vicki Sedlack
Alameda Education Foundation

**Digital Collection Plate**
The Holy Communion
Eucharistic Prayer C

Offertory Anthem

Recordare from Requiem
G. Verdi

Recall, blessed Jesus that I was the reason for your journey:
In seeking me, you redeemed me: do not let these pains to have been in vain,
give me the gift of redemption.

Presentation Hymn

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise

God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye

heav'nly host; Praise God and Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
The Great Thanksgiving

God of love, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. **By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace. **By his life, he reconciled us. By his love, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus
And so, God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, we celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Miriam and Ruth; God of Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, God, through Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

The people sing,

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.
Presider  The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ walks with you, and feed on them in your hearts, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn  3X  Bless the Lord my soul, W825 Taize

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God’s holy name.

Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me into life.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Birthday Prayer

Oh God, our times are in your hand. Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Prayer

God, send your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing
Closing Hymn

All things bright and beautiful, 405

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)  
Music: Royal Oak, melody from The Dancing Master, 1686, adapt. and harm. Martin Fells Shaw (1875-1958)  
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Dismissal

Postlude

O Polichinelo (Punch)  
H. Villa-Lobos
Presider – The Rev. Stephen McHale
Preacher – The Rev. Stephen McHale
Assoc. Rector – The Rev. Will Scott
Deacon – The Rev. Mary Jones
Director of Music Ministries – Michael Moran
Soloist & Cantor – Eileen Meredith
Special Musical Guest – Ellen St. Thomas
Camera Operator – Amelia Quinonez- Brooks
Key Grip – Giles Quinonez - Brooks
Reader – Babs Kenney
Parish Administrator – Pamela Kruse-Buckingham